

## Andrew Jackson to Davidson County Bible Society, September 30, 1826, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO A COMMITTEE OF THE DAVIDSON COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jackson had been invited to attend the anniversary meeting of the Davidson County Bible Society, and to move a resolution approving the report of the managers, making appropriate remarks. The above letter was his reply to the invitation.

Hermitage, September 30, 1826.

*Gentlemen,* Your note of the 25th instant is Just recd through the post office

Whilst I feel grateful for the honor intended me, I must decline your request. Was this great and good cause in need of this effort it should be yielded with much pleasure and promptness, but as this cannot be the case, there being so many Gentlemen much better qualified for public speaking than myself and more in the habit, I must be excused—having lost many of my teeth it is with great difficulty I can articulate, and not being in the habit of public speaking of late, it is very unpleasant for me to appear in that charecter. I therefore resign to abler hands.

There is still a stronger reason for my declining—it is this—Under existing circumstances, was such an address to go forth to the world, I might be charged by my political enemies with having come forth hypocritically under the sacred garb of religion thus to electioner—never having worn this mask I cannot permit myself to appear in an attitude which might justify my enemies in raising imputations so unpleasant.

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Permit me to assure you, gentlemen whilst for the reasons offered I decline the profered honor, that there is nothing that I can do with propriety that I will not do, to prosper the great and good cause of christianity and the true religion of Jesus christ by the spread of the gospel.

With great consideration and respect I am Gentlemen